



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#13
2/19.3/2003

In re Application of:
TAKAO OGURA, et al.
Application No.: 09/676,090
Filed: October 2, 2000
For: RECHARGEABLE LITHIUM
BATTERY AND PROCESS FOR
THE PRODUCTION THEREOF)
Examiner: John S. Maples
Group Art Unit: 1745
January 21, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

- (1) JP 11-260320
- (2) JP 59-018576
- (3) FR 00-920314
- (4) JP 09-213286

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on January 2003
(Date of Deposit)

Michael K. O'Neill
Name of Attorney for Applicant
Michael K. O'Neill
Signature
Date of Signature

Documents (2), (3), and (4) were cited in a Search Report for a counterpart European application. A copy of the Search Report is also enclosed.

The following is a concise explanation of relevance for Japanese document (1):

[Subject] To provide a flat thin type prismatic battery which eliminates the problems in the prior art, which is capable of being relatively simply mass-produced, and which has large strength and a high energy density.

[Means to solve the subject] A flat thin type prismatic battery comprising a flat thin type vessel portion whose wide mouth face is opened in one direction and which comprises a metal single body having a collar-shaped portion at the periphery of said wide mouth face and a battery element accommodated between said vessel portion and a cover portion comprising a metal single body and which becomes a cover of said vessel portion wherein said collar-shaped portion of said flat thin type vessel portion and said cover portion are airtight-sealed by way of metal joining, characterized in that said battery satisfies the following conditions:

(1) said battery has a portion formed by bending at least part of said airtight-sealed collar-shaped portion in a direction toward the bottom portion of the vessel portion, and (2) the length of the bent collar portion in a vessel thickness direction from the tip of the bent portion to the wide mouth face is more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the vessel thickness of the vessel portion.

The concise explanation of relevance for the Japanese documents (2) and (4) can be found in the enclosed English-language abstracts.

The attached European Search Report serves as a concise explanation of relevance for the French document (3).

Inasmuch as this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed together with a Request For Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(4). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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